

# Sulawesi 2016

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February 26<sup>th</sup> – February 28<sup>th</sup>

We visited 4 areas of Sulawesi, Tangkoko NP, Nantu Forest, the Togian islands, and the area around Makassar. We first arrived in Manado and were picked up by Bobby and taken to his guesthouse. We spent a couple days around Tangkoko with one of his guides. We then flew to Gorontalo and took the ferry to the Togian islands. We stayed in two places, Una Una, mainly for diving, and Malenge. When we returned to Gorontalo, Bobby took us directly to Nantu Forest and we spent a couple days in the blind. We then left for Raja Ampat. On the way back to KL, we stayed at the Makassar airport for a couple nights to go after Moor Macaque.

**Tangkoko** is well known, so I will give no description.

**Nantu** is also well known, and I will only add it would have been MUCH better to stay with the guards again than to stay in town as we did.

**Togian Islands** – Una Una was great for diving, but we barely explored it. I did see a mouse and Lindsay thought she saw a squirrel. There were several fruit bats, some sort of *Dobsonia* feeding on the fruiting mangos. The return visit to Malenge was concerning. It seems Babirusa are still present, but being killed regularly by dogs. We did not see any macaques, tarsiers, or cuscus, but they are still about. The bat cave still has many bats in it, but are still hunted. On the bright side, there is a new guest house called Bahi Tomini, which has a Spanish couple as owners. They hired the man who owns the garden leading up to the bat cave, so in theory all access should be through him. Ki-ke, the Spanish owner joined us for the trip to the bat cave, as he hadn't been there yet. Inside we found plenty of bats, as well as nets for catching them. He was outraged. He dragged all of the bat hunting nets to the entrance to the cave and burned them. The bats were stressed enough when we got in deep that a couple dropped their young. We left as soon as we saw this. I was still able to see at least 7 species of bats, 5 closely and an additional two flying or roosting. I would say there are at least 10+ species in the cave.

**Makassar Area** – We decided to just stay at the airport as the sites we wanted to visit were to the east, and Makassar and its traffic would have added a lot of time. At around 6 am I went down to the front desk and asked the receptionist to arrange a taxi with an English speaking driver for the day. We paid too much, as I agreed to his initial price, but it was much cheaper than other options we had explored. I told him I wanted to go to Karaenta Forest Reserve to see the monkeys, and he said no problem. As you can see on Google Earth, the road through the reserve winds upwards through good forest. We stopped at the GPS point under the species account and he said "You get out here, sometimes Germans here, sometimes police here." He said he'd be back in two hours and was off. We saw a Moor Macaque within 45 seconds of getting out of the car. We then followed a trail into the forest and found a decent size troop of macaques. They were skittish and mostly high in the trees, so no photos. We then explored the several limestone caves in the area, but with no luck finding bats. The driver returned 2.5 hours later, laughing, and saying "so many police". I'm not sure if we were supposed to be there or not. Since we had a late flight, we decided to hire him again the next day to check out Taman

Nasional Bantiburung. We arrived early and were able to explore one of the caves before anyone else and saw several Lesser Sheath-tailed Bats. We then heard about a village nearby that had thousands of fruit bats in it. We headed there after a little bit of miscommunication. Apparently it is kela-LU-ar. We spent a bit of time taking pictures and observing the bats, and then headed back to the hotel for our afternoon flight.

## Mammals

**Celebes Crested Macaque** (*Macaca nigra*) – Easily viewed at Tangkoko.

**Heck's Macaque** (*Macaca hecki*) – 1-4 two days at the Nantu blind.

**Moor Macaque** (*Macaca maura*) – Large group, 3 or 4 observed, but most only heard, where we were dropped off in Karaenta Forest Reserve. S -5.035454, E119.737854

**Spectral Tarsier** (*Tarsius tarsier*) – 4 observed in the evening, two in the day at Tangkoko.



**Sulawesi Bear Cuscus** (*Ailurops ursinus*) – Six sighted in one morning at Tangkoko.

**Northern Sulawesi Babirusa (*Babirusa celebensis*)** – Observed nearly continuously from the blind at Nantu Forest.



**Celebes Warty Pig (*Sus celebensis*)** – Observed on the trail to the blind, and at the ranger camp in Nantu Forest.

**Whitish Dwarf Squirrel (*Prosciurillus leucomus*)**– Observed in Tangkoko and Nantu Forest in low numbers.

**Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat** (*Hipposideros diadema*)– Malenge bat cave.

**Hipposideros** sp – Malenge bat cave

**Rhinolophus** – Malenge bat cave

**Rhinolophus** – Malenge bat cave

**Myotis** – Day roosting in a lamp on Malenge

**Lesser Sheath-tailed Bat** (*Emballonura monticola*) – Roosting in a cave in Taman Nasional Bantiburung.



Sulawesi Naked-backed Fruit Bat (*Dobsonia exoleta*) – Malenge bat cave

Sulawesi Fruit Bat (*Acerodon celebensis*) – Abundant and unmissable at the village near Taman Nasional Bantiburung

